

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Vocoding conversions are reduced by dynamically loading a software-defined vocoder into a handset. The software-defined vocoder may be selected based on the calling party's network type, wherein a notification of network type is transmitted to the called party's network during call setup. The software-defined vocoders may be stored in the network and downloaded into the handset; alternatively, the software-defined vocoders may be stored in the handset. Voice data is tunneled from the calling party's handset and the calling party's network, through any number of different networks, to the called party's network and called party's handset, without any vocoding conversions, except at the handsets.

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